

## **STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR FRIENDS OR LOVED ONES WANTING TO OBTAIN NALOXONE**

1. Although it is not necessary in order to be prescribed naloxone, if you would like to complete the brief Pennsylvania Department of Health approved online training, please visit [www.givenaloxone.org](http://www.givenaloxone.org) . You will be provided a certificate at the end of the training.
2. If you would like to help someone who is at risk of having an overdose from heroin or prescription pain medication, you must make an appointment with your doctor and ask for a prescription for naloxone.
3. If your physician is unaware of the new PA law regarding naloxone (ACT 139), be sure to explain that you are now legally allowed to give naloxone to someone else who is at risk of an overdose from opioid pain medication or heroin. [Click here to view ACT 139](#).
4. Discuss with your doctor the available forms of naloxone and the kind that you might feel most comfortable using.
5. Take your naloxone prescription to your local pharmacy/drug store. If your pharmacy does not have naloxone or the necessary attachments, ask them to order the medication for you. It should be available to pick up in a day or two.
6. Be well prepared to help in case a friend or loved one overdoses. This includes knowing the signs and symptoms of overdose, knowing how to assemble and use the naloxone, and being aware of important rescue and breathing techniques that you may need to perform on someone who is overdosing. In the case of an overdose, always call 911.
7. Treatment works. To find drug and alcohol treatment for your loved one, please visit <http://www.ddap.pa.gov/needhelpnow/>

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1) What is naloxone?**

Naloxone (also known as Narcan or Evzio) is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

### **2) How do I obtain naloxone?**

#### **First responders (police, fire fighters, and EMS)**

In order to obtain a prescription for naloxone, you must first complete Department of Health approved naloxone training.

**Department of Health licensed EMS agencies and certified EMS providers  
Training will be provided through the Department of Health's Learning Management System.**

**Law enforcement/fire departments/other persons not currently licensed by the Department of Health, training can be found at: <http://www.getnaloxonenow.org>**

Any first responder agency that is not currently licensed by the Department of Health must first enter into a written agreement with an Emergency Medical Services Agency. This written agreement is valid only under the consent of the EMS Director or another physician.

#### **Family members and friends**

Individuals must first get a prescription from a doctor for Naloxone. Naloxone prescriptions can be filled at most pharmacies. Although the medication may not be available for same day pick up, it should be available within a day or two.

### **3) What types of naloxone are available?**

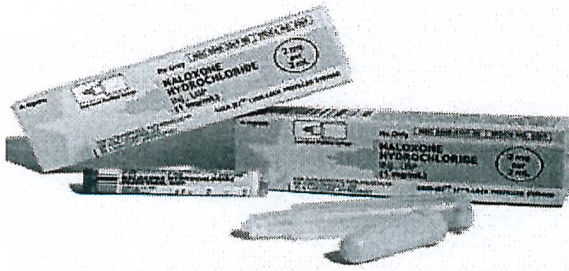
Commonly used methods by which naloxone is administered are intranasal (nasal spray), auto-injector, and intramuscular. Please note, not all forms may be available at your pharmacy and insurance coverage may vary depending on the form.

#### 4) How do I administer naloxone?

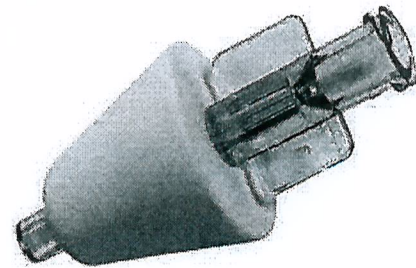
**Intranasal (nasal spray).** In order to administer naloxone nasal spray, one will need to obtain the following:

- 2mg/2mL of naloxone (prefilled syringe). Make sure it will be made available at the pharmacy stated on the standing order and/or agreement as some pharmacies may not carry the product.

**Prefilled Syringe**



**Nasal Atomization Device**



- Nasal Atomization Device which is **sold separately**. Although this attachment is not normally stocked, your local pharmacy may assist in ordering. Additionally, the nasal atomization device can be ordered from a number of medical supply companies without a prescription. [Link to assembly instructions here](#)

#### **Auto-injector in a manufactured dosage form (similar to an epi-pen)**

- On April 3, 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first naloxone auto-injector which can be used intramuscularly (IN) or just below the skin of the thigh area. This form of administration requires no assembly and provides real time instruction. Make sure it will be made available at the pharmacy stated on the standing order and/or agreement as some pharmacies may not carry the product. To read more about this product please visit: <http://evzio.com/patient/about-evzio/what-is-evzio.php>



Dimensions  
3 3/8" high  
2" wide  
5/8" thick



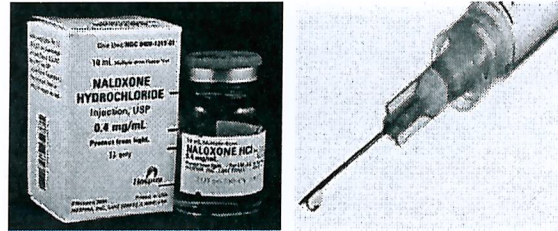
About the height and  
width of a credit card



About the thickness  
of a smartphone



## Intramuscular administration



### 3) After I obtain a prescription, where can I go to purchase the naloxone?

There are a few ways to obtain the medication and its associated attachments. First, check with your local pharmacies to see if they have the medication, what form they have it available in and if they offer other necessary equipment in the store. If the products you need are not available and time permits, ask your pharmacy if they will assist in ordering

### 4) Where do I find an approved online training?

Please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health or the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs websites for approved training venues and supportive information.

### 5) What is the statutory immunity as described in ACT 139?

#### **Good Samaritan:**

Through the 'Good Samaritan' provision of Act 139, friends, loved ones and bystanders are encouraged to call 911 for emergency medical services in the event an overdose is witnessed and to stay with the individual until help arrives. The provision offers certain criminal and civil protections to the caller that they cannot get in trouble for being present, witnessing and reporting an overdose. Law enforcement entities in other states that have implemented Good Samaritan protections for those who dial 911 in good faith report a significant improvement in community relations

#### **Naloxone:**

**Concern about liability should not deter anyone from using naloxone to save a life. To the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs knowledge, there have been no known law suits from the use of naloxone. This insignificant legal risk goes away when you do the following:**

1. Prior to giving the naloxone, you believed that the person was suffering from an opioid (heroin or other prescription medicine) overdose.
2. You completed a brief training prior to using the medication on someone having an overdose.
3. Before, or right after giving the naloxone medication, you called 911 for medical help.